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SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE FM AMADO HOPES TO ATTEND MARCH 2
CONFERENCE, SHARM AL-SHEIKH

REF: STATE 14575

¶1. (SBU) On February 19, Pol-Econ officer shared reftel points with Portuguese MFA Officer Florbela Cardy and underscored the importance of Portugal's engaged participation in the event. Cardy told us that Portuguese Foreign Minister Luis Amado wants to attend the event and believes that it will be an important opportunity to secure funds and attention on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Amado currently has a scheduling conflict but is attempting to reschedule his other commitment so he can attend.

¶2. (SBU) Portugal is giving 400,000 euros to help ease the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Out of the GOP's annual 265 million euro aid budget, roughly 80 percent goes to Lusophone nations for development and rule of law programs.

For more reporting from Embassy Lisbon and information about Portugal, please see our Intelink site: <http://www.intelink.sgov.gov/wiki/portal:portugal>

STEPHENSON